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July 29, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU REACHING OUT TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University's School of Adult and Continuing Education has made it easier for staff and boards of nonprofit organizations to receive continuing education by establishing the Learning Center for Nonprofit Organizations -- a one-stop center offering a variety of meeting planning needs.

"If individuals are looking for assistance in developing continuing education programs and providing learning opportunities for their organization, Eastern's Learning Center for Nonprofit Organizations is the place to go," said Elaine Wolff, Learning Center coordinator.

Wolff said the Learning Center, located in the Office of Conferences and Non-Credit Programs in 212 Blair Hall on the EIU campus, is staffed by experienced professionals who can assist associations, governmental agencies, school districts and churches plan -- from beginning to end -- seminars, forums, symposia, retreats, board meetings and professional institutes. "We can also custom design a certification program to meet an organization's need or develop programs for credit," Wolff said.

Learning Center staff can assist with all types of program arrangements, ranging from planning needs assessment, publicity, facility coordination, instructional support and participant registration.

Program topics are tailored to the specific needs of the nonprofit organization, Wolff said. Those in most demand have dealt with interpersonal relations, team-building, process skills and computers. Sessions for boards of directors have been in strategic planning, goal setting, stress management, conducting effective meetings and using committees effectively.

Wolff noted that meetings, seminars, non-credit courses and classes to obtain continuing education units can be delivered through interactive video or the Internet.

Eastern faculty and external consultants teach programs offered through the Learning

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LEARNING CENTER

Center. Costs vary depending on the program's scope.

Wolff said the Learning Center also serves as a resource for members of nonprofit organizations seeking guest speakers. "We are in the process of compiling a resource manual of campus experts who could serve as guest speakers for a variety of groups."

For more information about Eastern's Learning Center for Nonprofit Organizations, contact Wolff or Pam Hale at (217) 581-5116.

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